

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 SS-15 NSC-05 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5781

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BELGIAN PRESS COMMENT ON US CONCORDE HEARINGS

INFLUENTIAL FLEMISH DAILY DE STANDAARD

OF JANUARY 7 MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS ABOUT U.S. HEARINGS ON CONCORDE: QUOTE IT IS NO SECRET THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT--

LED BY FORD AND KISSINGER -- IS OPPOSED TO A LANDING BAN, IF

ONLY SO AS NOT TO ANTAGONIZE THE EUROPEAN ALLIES. FORD ALSO

WANTS TO PREVENT SUSPICION FROM GROWING, ESPECIALLY IN

FRANCE -- WHOSE MIRAGE ALREADY MISSED THE QUOTE DEAL OF

THE CENTURY UNQUOTE -- THAT THE CONCORDE IS BANNED BECAUSE

IT HAS NO AMERICAN COUNTERPART. HOWEVER, THE SUSPICION OF

AMERICAN PROTECTIONISM, UTTERED MORE THAN ONCE IN THE FRENCH

PRESS, SOUNDS RATHER SOUR. THE HEART OF THE MATTER IS THAT

FRANCE AND THE U.K. HAVE BEEN PUMPING FOR TEN YEARS MONEY

INFO A PLANE WHICH NOBODY WANTS. THE CONCORDE MAY BE

CALLED A TECHNOLOGICAL MIRACLE; THE MARKET RESEARCH

THAT PRECEDED IT DIFITELY ISN'T. THE LUFTHANSA

MANAGER RECENTLY SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE THE PLANE

EVEN FREE. MOREOVER THE QUESTION REMAINS OF WHETHER IT

IS MORALLY DEFENSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENTS TO INVEST

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TENS OF BILLIONS IN AN EXTREMELY ELITIST MEANS OF

TRANSPORTATION LIKE THE CONCORDE OF WHICH ONLY NINE COPIES HAVE BEEN SOLD SO FAR DESPITE P.T. BARNUM-STYLE ADVERTISING. UNQUOTE. FIRESTONE

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